Restructuring of UTI Schemes

683. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unit Trust of India has decided to offer fresh options to its investors by restructuring some existing schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it has also been decided to foreclose several assured return schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when the matter will be finally decided and investors informed about the changes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Government have decided that investors of US-64 will be given an option of five year, tax-free tradable bonds with a coupon rate of 25 to 30 basis points over and above the yield of Government securities of similar maturity at the relevant time in lieu of cash payments at the time of redemption.

(c) to (e) As announced through the press release of the Government on 28.10.2002, in Assured Return Schemes or foreclosure of scheme and/or interest rate of resetting may be done subject to SEBI Regulations.

Cut in Government expenditure

†684. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Finance has suggested reduction in expenditure of some of the Departments of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in this regard alongwith the fate of officers, employees and researchers when these suggestions are implemented?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.